

PARKS COMMISSIONERS
MASON LIBRARY
231 MAIN STREET
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2013
5:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

PAUL GIBBONS

CHARLES BOUTEILLER

THOMAS NORTON - ABSENT

STEVE BANNON

PATRICIA SALVI

KATHY PLUNGIS

KAREN SMITH

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

MOTION: Steve Bannon to approve the minutes from the August 12, meeting.

SECOND: Charlie Bouteiller

VOTE: 5-0

2. **PARKS CARE AND MAINTENANCE:**

A. Updates from Joe Sokul – DPW Superintendent – Joe advised the equipment for the Housatonic playground is scheduled to ship this week. It is being shipped to P&P Instillations. They will assemble as much as possible. The swing set has been installed at Lake Mansfield. The fitness equipment is being installed at South Street Park. Steve said there is a Housatonic Group who would like to give us some guidance and help. We have never had an open meeting asking people to join the group. He noted we may want to expand the horizon of that group so people don't feel left out. Steve said someone was at the Park one day and the group was meeting and if they hadn't been at the park, they wouldn't have known about it. Joe advised that the Town will take down the old equipment at the former Housatonic School and that will begin next week. We will need to do grading and install some mulch. Joe advised that Big Toys said the equipment will be installed the last week of September. A temporary sign will be put up next week announcing when the equipment will be removed and the new equipment installed. Steve advised he would announce it at the Selectmen's time at their meeting. Joe advised that he will have the new state law requiring helmets printed on signs and put at the entrance of the parks that if you are 16 or under you must wear a helmet for skateboarding, etc. Karen advised that she spoke with Angela Pevzner and evidentially the rules board has been scratched out at Memorial Field. She advised that a code of conduct needs to be added to the rules board. It should be covered in Plexiglass. It was noted that the sign will be replaced after it is determined what the sign needs to state. Sam from Berkshire South noted that they have a large number of helmets.

3. **PARKS USAGE REQUEST:**

A. Yven Roh, Railroad Street Youth Project, 60 Bridge Street to use the Basketball Court, Memorial Field and the Skate Park on September 21, 2013 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. to

celebrate International Day of Peace. He noted that Yoga is planned; storytelling's, arts and crafts, a vegetarian lunch, barter market (not money involved) and musical groups from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. It was noted that he should contact the Police Department to assist with crossing the street and also to submit a more detailed description of events to the board prior to the event.

MOTION: Steve to approve as described with the condition that a more detailed description of the events be submitted prior to the event.

SECOND: Karen Smith

VOTE: 5-0

4. **BERKSHIRE SOUTH**

A. Sam Gaughan from Berkshire South was present to update the board. He noted that the sign at Memorial Field currently says no bikes are allowed at the skate park. Karen said she would like to come up with a way they could share the space. It was noted that Berkshire South should do the draft of what the sign should say. It needs to note that vulgar language is not allowed. Sam advised he would take a picture of it and Berkshire South would come up with the wording. It was also noted that Berkshire South should do a press release in the Shopper's Guide or the Berkshire Record once a month of activities the Berkshire Record. Closing information should also be included on the sign.

Paul advised that the budget for the Parks Programs and Management went over by approximately \$3,600 last year. Laura Martin submitted a breakdown of the costs. We need to decide if we are going to open later in June or close earlier in October. Sam said he would look at the October figures on how busy the park was last year.

5. **NEW BUSINESS:**

6. **OLD BUSINESS:**

A. Water/Sewer Lines at Olympian Meadows. The water line is \$18,000 and the sewer pump is \$4,800. It was noted that up to \$20,000 was authorized for both water and sewer. The sewer line is \$4,000 over that. The \$20,000 was carried over for 3 years. Charlie suggested using the \$20,000 to get sewer to the snack shack and a new water line to the snack shack. It was noted that water will still be available at the fields. Joe advised that when they originally estimated the cost, it was just for placement and not for two water fountains at the fields. The sewer line will tie into the force main. It was noted that bathrooms will be able to be installed in the future.

MOTION: Steve to run the water and sewer lines from the pit to the snack shack.

SECOND: Karen

VOTE: 4-0-1 (Charlie abstained)

7. **SET NEXT MEETING DATE:**

A. The next meeting of Parks will be October 15, 2013 because the regular meeting falls on Columbus Day. The meeting in November will be November 12, 2013 because the regular meeting falls on Veterans' Day.

Kathy Plungis said that the next meeting of the Lake Mansfield Alliance is September 30, at 8:30 a.m. There are 3 proposals for Lake Mansfield Road to leave it two ways, make it 1 way or a walk and bike road only.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carolyn Wichmann". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Carolyn Wichmann
Secretary